

EXPRESSING THE GRAVE CONCERN OF CONGRESS REGARDING
THE VIOLATIONS OF THE SYRIAN AND LEBANESE PEOPLE
BY THE SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC; THE OCCUPATION OF THE
REPUBLIC OF LEBANON BY THE SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC;
AND THE ARREST OF AYMAN NOUR; AND VARIOUS OTHER
RESOLUTIONS

MARKUP
BEFORE THE
COMMITTEE ON
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
ONE HUNDRED NINTH CONGRESS

FIRST SESSION

ON

**H. Con. Res. 18, H. Con. Res. 32, H. Con. Res. 34,
H. Con. Res. 81, H. Con. Res. 82, H. Con. Res. 83,
H. Res. 99, H. Res. 101, H. Res. 108, H. Res. 120
and H. Res. 135**

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EXPRESSING THE GRAVE CONCERN OF CONGRESS REGARDING THE VIOLATIONS OF THE SYRIAN AND LEBANESE PEOPLE BY THE SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC; THE OCCUPATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF LEBANON BY THE SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC; AND THE ARREST OF AYMAN NOUR; AND VARIOUS OTHER RESOLUTIONS

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9, 2004

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS,
Washington, DC.

The Committee met, pursuant to call, at 10:25 a.m. in room 2172, Rayburn House Office Building, Hon. Henry J. Hyde (Chairman of the Committee) presiding.

Chairman HYDE. The Committee will come to order. We have a series of noncontroversial bills pending before the Committee, most of which have been marked up by the Subcommittees. It is the intention of the Chair to consider these measures en bloc, and by unanimous consent authorize the Chair to seek consideration of the bills under suspension of the rules.

[The bills referred to follow:]

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 18

Expressing the grave concern of Congress regarding the continuing gross violations of human rights and civil liberties of the Syrian and Lebanese people by the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 6, 2005

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN (for herself and Mr. ENGEL) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the grave concern of Congress regarding the continuing gross violations of human rights and civil liberties of the Syrian and Lebanese people by the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic.

Whereas the Syrian Arab Republic is governed by an authoritarian regime which continues to commit serious human rights abuses, including the use of torture and arbitrary arrest and detention;

Whereas the Department of State's Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2003 states that Syria "significantly restricts freedom of speech and of the press", that "freedom of assembly does not exist under the law", and that "the Government restricted freedom of association";

Whereas Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states “Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.”;

Whereas Article 20 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states “Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association.”;

Whereas Syria’s September 2001 press law permits the government to arbitrarily deny or revoke publishing licenses for vague reasons and compels media to submit all material to government censors;

Whereas Syrian authorities have arrested, or, in the case of foreigners, expelled journalists for writing critically about Syria’s policies;

Whereas Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International have reported that the security forces of Syria are targeting emerging Syrian human rights organizations, as well as their attorneys, in an apparent attempt to intimidate those organizations;

Whereas on March 8, 2004, Syrian security forces arrested more than 30 human rights dissidents and civilians at a sit-in in front of the parliament;

Whereas a United States diplomat who was watching the peaceful demonstrations was also arrested and held for an hour in what the United States called an unacceptable violation of diplomatic practice and which the United States protested “in the strongest terms”;

Whereas Article 7 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states “All are equal before the law and are enti-

tled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law.”;

Whereas the criminal law of Syria provides for reduced sentences in cases of “honor” killings, and spousal rape is not illegal;

Whereas the infringement by Syria on human rights and civil liberties extends into the Lebanese Republic, which it continues to occupy in violation of United Nations Security Council resolutions;

Whereas Human Rights Watch, in its 2003 World Report, stated that “political activists in Lebanon continued to demand the withdrawal of all Syrian forces from the country and organized demonstrations throughout the year, many of which the internal security forces dispersed forcibly”;

Whereas hundreds of Lebanese civilians are believed to have been killed or “disappeared” by Syrian occupation forces or its secret police;

Whereas hundreds of Kurdish civilians were injured or killed in clashes with the Syrian authorities that began on March 12, 2004, in Qamishli, a city in northeastern Syria and, according to Syrian Kurdish sources, security forces used live ammunition against unarmed civilians;

Whereas Syrian authorities are attempting to imprison Aktham Naisse, Syria’s leading human rights activist, who has been charged with spreading false information, forming an underground association with links to international human rights groups, and opposing the ruling Baath party;

Whereas in November 2004, upon his release from prison, Kamal Labwani, a 48-year-old physician in Syria, stated

that there are at least 400 political prisoners in Syria, 100 of whom have been jailed for at least 20 years;

Whereas Mr. Labwani urged “all defenders of freedom and human rights, whether individuals, associations, bodies or international, Arab, or local organizations to participate with us in this campaign to call for the immediate release of all political prisoners and detainees of opinion and conscience”;

Whereas in November 2004, Syrian journalist Louai Hussein was banned from writing by the Syrian Interior Ministry’s political security office;

Whereas the arrest in Germany in November 2004 of a Syrian embassy official for espionage and issuing threats against the Syrian opposition in Europe is being cited as an example of a campaign reportedly launched by Syrian dictator Bashar Assad, aimed at intimidating the regime’s opposition abroad; and

Whereas human rights and democracy groups in Syria have sponsored a petition urging greater freedoms and the release of all political prisoners, which has garnered more than 6,000 signatures: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring), That Congress—*

3 (1) condemns the consistent pattern of gross
4 violations of internationally recognized human rights
5 by the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic;

6 (2) calls on the international community to
7 adopt a resolution at the upcoming session of the
8 United Nations Commission on Human Rights

1 which details the dismal human rights record of
2 Syria;

3 (3) expresses its support for the people of Syria
4 in their daily struggle for freedom, respect for
5 human rights and civil liberties, democratic self-gov-
6 ernance, and the establishment of the rule of law;

7 (4) encourages the President and the Secretary
8 of State to reach out to dissidents, human rights ac-
9 tivists, and the nonviolent democratic opposition in
10 Syria, and to assist them in their efforts; and

11 (5) urges the adoption and pursuit of these and
12 other policies to seek a democratic government in
13 Syria that will—

14 (A) bring freedom and democracy to the
15 people of Syria;

16 (B) cease the illegal occupation by Syria of
17 the Lebanese Republic;

18 (C) abandon support for terrorism by
19 Syria;

20 (D) not pursue research, development, ac-
21 quisition, production, transfer, or deployment of
22 biological, chemical, or nuclear weapons, will
23 provide credible assurances that such behavior
24 will not be undertaken in the future, and will
25 agree to allow United Nations and other inter-

7

6

1 national observers to verify such assurances;
2 and
3 (E) live in peace and security with the
4 international community.

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109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 32

Expressing the grave concern of Congress regarding the occupation of the Republic of Lebanon by the Syrian Arab Republic.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 26, 2005

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN (for herself and Mr. ENGEL) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the grave concern of Congress regarding the occupation of the Republic of Lebanon by the Syrian Arab Republic.

Whereas the Syrian Arab Republic is the only country currently occupying another country that is a full member of the United Nations, in violation of all international laws and norms, including United Nations Security Council Resolutions 425, 426, 520, and 1559;

Whereas since its invasion of the Republic of Lebanon in 1976, the Syrian regime has implemented a systematic policy of occupation over Lebanon that has transformed the political, social, and economic character of Lebanon;

Whereas on July 20, 1976, President Hafez al-Assad of Syria stated that, “Syria and Lebanon were one state and one people . . .”;

Whereas the total Syrian occupation was complete on October 13, 1990, when the Syrian troops launched aerial and ground attacks and occupied the Lebanese presidential palace and the ministry of defense, ousting the constitutional government of Prime Minister Michel Aoun of Lebanon;

Whereas the Syrian regime appointed their own proxy government and president in occupied Lebanon and started a large-scale persecution operation against the Lebanese people by arresting, abducting, torturing, and killing opponents to the occupation;

Whereas, on May 22, 1991, following the occupation of Beirut, Lebanon, Syria concluded the Brotherhood Treaty for Coordination and Cooperation with Lebanon;

Whereas this treaty solidified the integration of the two countries in matters of security and intelligence, finance and trade, and industry and agriculture, by establishing the mechanism for Syrian command under the cover of “joint” decision-making;

Whereas the Syrian regime has continued to employ a wide range of policy means to transform Lebanon into a “client state” and a Syrian political satellite;

Whereas Syria clearly tampered with the Lebanese parliamentary elections of 1992, 1996, and 2000, amending electoral laws in all instances, which delineated voting districts and laid down intricate procedures for the elections, which were rigged in a way to guarantee results favorable to Syria;

Whereas Syrian-backed ad-hoc modifications to the Lebanese constitution extended the presidential tenure of the Lebanese president Elias Harawi by three years, allowed Emile Lahoud, commander of the Lebanese army, to become president, and extended Lahoud's term in contravention of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1559;

Whereas Lebanese judicial institutions have been utilized and mobilized to impose Syrian control, including the routine issuance of death sentences in abstentia against patriots and oppositionists;

Whereas Lebanese Broadcasting Law No. 382 of 1994 provided the legislative framework for controlling and restricting Lebanese radio and television;

Whereas the muzzle on the free flow of information and opinion in Lebanon is in sharp contrast to the legacy of journalism in that country;

Whereas Syria has reportedly widely utilized the practices of kidnapping and arresting Lebanese citizens, using torture against them, and causing their virtual disappearance;

Whereas Human Rights Watch reported that in November 1999 Syrian authorities in Damascus, Syria, offering no explanation whatsoever, returned the dead body of Lebanese citizen Adel Khalaf Ajouri, aged 52, who had "disappeared" in 1990;

Whereas within Lebanon itself, Syria reportedly operated detention facilities in Tripoli, Beirut, Shtaura in the Bekka Valley, and Anjar on the Lebanese-Syrian border;

Whereas "Syrian order" in Lebanon was institutionalized when Damascus led the process of disarming the Leba-

nese militias except for retaining Hezbollah as a terrorist force engaged against the State of Israel;

Whereas Lebanon, under the control of Syria, continues to serve as a major training center for terrorist organizations such as Hezbollah, Palestinian Islamic Jihad, Hamas, and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command;

Whereas Lebanese Government officials have actively facilitated and contributed to the Syrian occupation and its activities, threatening regional and global security; and

Whereas United Nations Security Council Resolution 1559 calls for the “strict respect of the sovereignty, territorial integrity, unity, and political independence of Lebanon under the sole and exclusive authority of the Government of Lebanon throughout Lebanon”, the withdrawal from Lebanon of “all remaining foreign forces”, “the disbanding and disarmament of all Lebanese and non-Lebanese militias,” and “the extension of the control of the Government of Lebanon over all Lebanese territory”:
Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring)*, That it is the sense of Congress that—

3 (1) the Republic of Lebanon is a captive coun-
4 try;

5 (2) the occupation of Lebanon represents a
6 long-term threat to the security of the Middle East
7 and United States efforts to promote political and
8 economic liberalization in the region, and this issue
9 should be raised by the President and the Secretary

1 of State in all appropriate bilateral and multilateral
2 forums;

3 (3) the President should direct the United
4 States Permanent Representative to the United Na-
5 tions to present and secure support for a United Na-
6 tions Security Council Resolution classifying Leb-
7 anon as a “captive country” and calling for the im-
8 mediate release of all Lebanese detainees in Syria
9 and Lebanon;

10 (4) the President should freeze all assets in the
11 United States belonging to Lebanese Government of-
12 ficials who are found to support and aid the occupa-
13 tion of Lebanon by the Syrian Arab Republic;

14 (5) all countries should fully and immediately
15 implement United Nations Security Council Resolu-
16 tion 1559;

17 (6) it should be the policy of the United States
18 to—

19 (A) support independent human rights and
20 pro-democracy advocates in Lebanon; and

21 (B) seek the full restoration of sovereign
22 democratic rule in Lebanon; and

23 (7) the United States should provide assistance
24 through the Middle East Partnership Initiative and
25 the Broader Middle East and North Africa Initiative

1 for broadcasts and civil society efforts to assist indi-
2 viduals, organizations, and entities that support
3 Lebanese sovereignty and the promotion of democ-
4 racy in Lebanon.

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109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 34

Honoring the life and contributions of Yogi Bhajan, a leader of Sikhs,
and expressing condolences to the Sikh community on his passing.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 26, 2005

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico (for himself, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. BROWN of South Carolina, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, Mr. HERGER, Mr. HYDE, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. McCOTTER, Mr. McNULTY, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. PEARCE, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. WEINER, Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, and Mr. WEXLER) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Honoring the life and contributions of Yogi Bhajan, a leader
of Sikhs, and expressing condolences to the Sikh commu-
nity on his passing.

Whereas the Sikh faith was founded in the northern section
of the Republic of India in the 15th century by Guru
Nanak, who preached tolerance and equality for all hu-
mans;

Whereas the Sikh faith began with a simple message of
truthful living and the fundamental unity of humanity,
all created by one creator who manifests existence
through every religion;

Whereas the Sikh faith reaches out to people of all faiths and cultural backgrounds, encourages individuals to see beyond their differences, and to work together for world peace and harmony;

Whereas Siri Singh Sahib Bhai Sahib Harbhajan Singh Khalsa Yogiji, known as Yogi Bhajan to hundreds of thousands of people worldwide, was born Harbhajan Singh Puri on August 26, 1929, in India;

Whereas at age eight, Yogi Bhajan began yogic training, and eight years later was proclaimed by his teacher to be a master of Kundalini Yoga, which stimulates individual growth through breath, yoga postures, sound, chanting, and meditation;

Whereas during the turmoil on the partition between Pakistan and India in 1947, at the age of 18, Yogi Bhajan led his village of 7,000 people 325 miles on foot to safety in New Delhi, India, from what is now Lahore, Pakistan;

Whereas Yogi Bhajan, before emigrating to North America in 1968, served the Government of India faithfully through both civil and military service;

Whereas when Yogi Bhajan visited the United States in 1968, he recognized immediately that the experience of higher consciousness that many young people were attempting to find through drugs could be alternatively achieved through Kundalini Yoga, and in response, he began teaching Kundalini Yoga publicly, thereby breaking the centuries-old tradition of secrecy surrounding it;

Whereas in 1969, Yogi Bhajan founded “Healthy, Happy, Holy Organization (3HO)”, a nonprofit private educational and scientific foundation dedicated to serving humanity, improving physical well-being, deepening spiritual

awareness, and offering guidance on nutrition and health, interpersonal relations, child rearing, and human behavior;

Whereas under the direction and guidance of Yogi Bhajan, 3HO expanded to 300 centers in 35 countries;

Whereas in 1971, the president of the governing body of Sikh Temples in India gave Yogi Bhajan the title of Siri Singh Sahib, which made him the chief religious and administrative authority for Sikhism in the Western Hemisphere, and subsequently the Sikh seat of religious authority gave him responsibility to create a Sikh ministry in the West;

Whereas in 1971, Sikh Dharma was legally incorporated in the State of California and recognized as a tax-exempt religious organization by the United States, and in 1972, Yogi Bhajan founded the ashram Sikh Dharma in Española, New Mexico;

Whereas in 1973, Yogi Bhajan founded “3HO SuperHealth”, a successful drug rehabilitation program that blends ancient yogic wisdom of the East with modern technology of the West;

Whereas in June 1985, Yogi Bhajan established the first “International Peace Prayer Day Celebrations” in New Mexico, which still draws thousands of participants annually;

Whereas Yogi Bhajan traveled the world calling for world peace and religious unity at meetings with leaders such as Pope Paul VI; Pope John Paul II; His Holiness the Dalai Lama; the President of the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Mikhail Gorbachev; and two Archbishops of Canterbury;

Whereas Yogi Bhajan wrote 30 books and inspired the publication of 200 other books through his teachings, founded a drug rehabilitation program, and inspired the founding of several businesses;

Whereas Sikhs and students across the world testify that Yogi Bhajan exhibited dignity, divinity, grace, commitment, courage, kindness, compassion, tolerance, wisdom, and understanding;

Whereas Yogi Bhajan taught that in times of joy and sorrow members of the community should come together and be at one with each other; and

Whereas before his passing on October 6, 2004, Yogi Bhajan requested that his passing be a time of celebration of his going home: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring)*, That the Congress—

3 (1) recognizes that the teachings of Yogi
4 Bhajan about Sikhism and yoga, and the businesses
5 formed under his inspiration, improved the personal,
6 political, spiritual, and professional relations between
7 citizens of the United States and the citizens of
8 India;

9 (2) recognizes the legendary compassion, wis-
10 dom, kindness, and courage of Yogi Bhajan, and his
11 wealth of accomplishments on behalf of the Sikh
12 community; and

13 (3) extends its condolences to Inderjit Kaur, the
14 wife of Yogi Bhajan, his three children and five

1 grandchildren, and to Sikh and 3HO communities
2 around the Nation and the world upon the death on
3 October 6, 2004, of Yogi Bajan, an individual who
4 was a wise teacher and mentor, an outstanding pio-
5 neer, a champion of peace, and a compassionate
6 human being.

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109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 81

Expressing the sense of Congress regarding the two-year anniversary of the human rights crackdown in Cuba.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 2, 2005

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, and Mr. HYDE) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of Congress regarding the two-year anniversary of the human rights crackdown in Cuba.

Whereas in March 2003, Cuban dictator Fidel Castro arrested more than 75 journalists, labor union organizers, civic leaders, librarians, and human rights activists as political prisoners;

Whereas the Cuban regime, after summary trials which were denounced by the international community, sentenced these innocent men and women to a total of more than 1,000 years in prison for trying to exercise their civil and political rights, many of whom are anticipated to die in prison before their sentence is completed;

Whereas the Charter of the United Nations reaffirms a commitment to fundamental human rights and to the dignity and worth of all people;

Whereas the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which establishes global human rights standards, asserts that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights, and that no one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest or detention;

Whereas these arrests and convictions were an atrocious attempt by the Cuban regime to crush the citizens' movements for a free and democratic Cuba;

Whereas Fidel Castro has tentatively released a limited number of prisoners from jail but these political activists are subject to arrest and imprisonment at any time pursuant to "extra penal licenses";

Whereas in 2004, the Cuban regime continued its suppression of democracy and repression of human rights activists, imprisoning a significant number of political dissidents during the year on such charges as disrespect for authority, public disorder, disobedience, and resisting arrest;

Whereas in April 2004, the United Nations Commission on Human Rights adopted a resolution deploring the sentencing of "political dissidents and journalists" in 2003 and calling for a visit to Cuba by a Personal Representative of the High Commissioner for Human Rights which was later denied by the Cuban regime;

Whereas Fidel Castro continues to hold hundreds of political prisoners in his jail cells;

Whereas Amnesty International has recognized all journalists and activists who were arrested in the crackdown in March 2003 as prisoners of conscience;

Whereas the Cuban regime engages in torture and other cruel, inhumane, and degrading treatment and punishment against political prisoners to force them into submission, including intense beatings, extended periods of solitary confinement, and denial of nutritional and medical attention, according to the Department of State's Country Report on Human Rights 2004;

Whereas religious freedom in Cuba is severely circumscribed, and clergy and lay people suffer sustained persecution by the Cuban State Security apparatus;

Whereas the Cuban regime denies the people of Cuba equal protection under the law, disallows them recourse for remedying violations of human rights and civil liberties, and instead enforces a judicial system which infringes upon fundamental rights; and

Whereas the United States Congress has stood, consistently, on the side of the Cuban people and supported their right to be free: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring), That Congress—*

3 (1) condemns in the strongest possible terms
4 the arrest of more than 75 journalists, labor union
5 organizers, civic leaders, librarians, and human
6 rights activists as political prisoners in March 2003
7 and the Cuban regime's continuing repressive crack-

1 down against the brave internal opposition and the
2 independent press;

3 (2) expresses its profound admiration and firm
4 solidarity with the internal opposition and inde-
5 pendent press of Cuba;

6 (3) demands that the Cuban regime imme-
7 diately release all political prisoners, legalize all po-
8 litical parties, labor unions, and the press, and hold
9 free and fair elections;

10 (4) declares the acts of the Cuban regime, in-
11 cluding its widespread and systematic violation of
12 human rights, to be in violation of the Charter of
13 the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of
14 Human Rights;

15 (5) declares that the rule of law should replace
16 the rule of force so that the fundamental and in-
17 alienable rights of every individual in Cuba are pro-
18 tected;

19 (6) calls for the European Union, as well as
20 other countries and international organizations, to
21 continue to pressure the Cuban regime to improve
22 its human rights record; and

23 (7) calls for United Nations member countries
24 to vote against the Cuban regime's membership in
25 the United Nations Commission on Human Rights

1 and the passage of a resolution at the 61st session
2 of the United Nations Commission on Human
3 Rights that holds the Cuban regime accountable for
4 its gross violations of human rights and civil lib-
5 erties.

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109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 82

Expressing the grave concern of Congress regarding the arrest of Ayman Nour, the leader of the al-Ghad party, by the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt and the support of Congress for continued progress toward democracy in Egypt.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 3, 2005

Mr. SCHIFF (for himself, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. ACKERMAN, and Mr. BERMAN) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the grave concern of Congress regarding the arrest of Ayman Nour, the leader of the al-Ghad party, by the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt and the support of Congress for continued progress toward democracy in Egypt.

Whereas the promotion of democracy, freedom, and liberty is central to United States national security policy;

Whereas according to the 1999 World Values Poll, 98 percent of Egyptians support democracy as the best form of government;

Whereas the suppression of political activity throughout the Arab world has strengthened Islamic extremists;

Whereas the Department of State's Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2003 states that "[Egyptian] citizens did not have the meaningful right to change their government" and that "[the] ruling National Democratic Party (NDP) dominated the 454-seat People's Assembly, the 264-seat Shura Council, local governments, the mass media, labor, and the large public sector, and controlled the licensing of new political parties, newspapers and private organizations";

Whereas new political parties in the Arab Republic of Egypt must be approved by the Political Parties Committee of Egypt;

Whereas in November 2004 the Political Parties Committee approved the formation of the al-Ghad party;

Whereas the al-Ghad party advocates greater transparency, democracy and freedom for Egypt's 73,000,000 citizens;

Whereas Ayman Nour has been a member of the People's Assembly of Egypt for 10 years;

Whereas on November 6, 2004, Ayman Nour was elected as president of the al-Ghad party;

Whereas on December 21, 2004, the first meeting of the Supreme Council of the al-Ghad party was held in Cairo;

Whereas the Government of Egypt accused Ayman Nour of furnishing forged signatures in support of the application of the al-Ghad party to the Political Parties Committee;

Whereas Ayman Nour denied the accusation of the Government of Egypt in a speech to the People's Assembly of Egypt;

Whereas on January 29, 2005, Ayman Nour's immunity from arrest as a member of the People's Assembly was lifted

during a meeting of the Legislative and Constitutional Affairs Committee of the People's Assembly;

Whereas on January 29, 2005, Ayman Nour was arrested by the Government of Egypt and ordered held for up to 4 days, which was subsequently increased to 45 days;

Whereas Ayman Nour remains in custody in a cell with 80 other prisoners;

Whereas Ayman Nour has diabetes and has other health problems and his wife has filed multiple petitions asking that he be transferred to a hospital;

Whereas on January 31, 2005, Richard Boucher, Spokesman for the Department of State, said: "We are concerned by the signal that the arrest sends. [Ayman Nour] is one of Egypt's most prominent opposition leaders and the arrest . . . raises questions about the outlook for democratic process in Egypt. . . . We're on the eve of a long-planned national dialogue between opposition parties, including Nour's and the ruling National Democratic Party. That is a dialogue that we feel is very valuable and we would—we find this arrest at this moment incongruous with proceeding with that dialogue.";

Whereas on February 8, 2005, Mousa Mustafa, the deputy chairman of the al-Ghad party, was arrested by the Government of Egypt;

Whereas on February 9, 2005, Mousa Mustafa was released from prison, but he still faces charges of forgery;

Whereas on February 2, 2005, President George W. Bush, in his State of the Union address, stated that "the great and proud nation of Egypt, which showed the way toward peace in the Middle East, can now show the way toward democracy in the Middle East"; and

Whereas on February 15, 2005, Secretary of State Condoleeza Rice, in a joint appearance with the Foreign Minister of Egypt, stated that “the Egyptian Government has the opportunity and the responsibility to be as great a leader for reform in the region as it has been a leader for peace”: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring), That Congress—*

3 (1) condemns the arrest of Ayman Nour, the
4 leader of the al-Ghad party, by the Government of
5 the Arab Republic of Egypt;

6 (2) calls on the Government of Egypt to release
7 Ayman Nour without delay;

8 (3) calls on the Government of Egypt to ensure
9 that if tried, Ayman Nour and his deputy, Mousa
10 Mustafa, be charged according to regular criminal
11 law and tried in a regular criminal court and not a
12 State Security or State Security Emergency Court,
13 and that Ayman Nour and Mousa Mustafa be af-
14 farded the right to present a full defense;

15 (4) expresses its support for the people of
16 Egypt as they struggle for democracy and the estab-
17 lishment of the rule of law;

18 (5) expresses its support for President George
19 W. Bush’s call for greater democracy in Egypt,
20 which he made in the State of the Union address on
21 February 2, 2005;

1 (6) encourages the President and the Secretary
2 of State to reach out to human rights activists and
3 the nonviolent democratic opposition in Egypt, and
4 to assist them in their efforts; and

5 (7) encourages the People's Assembly of Egypt
6 to follow through on President Mubarak's call for
7 changes to the Egyptian Constitution that would
8 allow for direct, contested presidential elections in
9 Egypt.

○

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 83

Urging the appropriate representative of the United States to the 61st session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights to introduce a resolution calling upon the Government of the People's Republic of China to end its human rights violations in China, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 3, 2005

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey (for himself, Mr. PENCE, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. WOLF, Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. KIRK, Mr. MCKEON, Mr. AKIN, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. ROHRABACHER, and Mr. PRICE of North Carolina) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Urging the appropriate representative of the United States to the 61st session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights to introduce a resolution calling upon the Government of the People's Republic of China to end its human rights violations in China, and for other purposes.

Whereas the annual meeting of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights in Geneva, Switzerland, is the preeminent international forum for examining, monitoring, and publicly reporting on human rights situations

in specific countries and on major phenomena of human rights violations worldwide;

Whereas, according to the Department of State, the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom, and international human rights organizations, the Government of the People's Republic of China continues to commit numerous and serious human rights abuses against the Chinese people;

Whereas, according to the Department of State, in late 2004 the Chinese Government launched a new campaign against dissident writers, commentators, and religious activists, in which many were harassed, detained, and imprisoned;

Whereas the Chinese Government attempts to control and regulate religious groups and, according to the Department of State, government repression of some unregistered religious groups increased during the past year, and included the destruction of facilities, the disruption of services, and the harassment and detention of leaders and congregants;

Whereas Catholics who remain faithful to the Pope and in communion with Rome, rather than joining the government-controlled Catholic Patriotic Association, face continuing restrictions, including difficulties holding worship services, obtaining building permits for churches, and training clergy;

Whereas, according to the Department of State, Chinese officials beat and abused a number of Catholic priests and lay leaders during 2004, and they continue to detain Bishop Su Zhimin, Bishop An Shuxin, Bishop Zhang

Weizhu, Father Cui Xing, and Father Wang Quanjun, among others;

Whereas, according to the Department of State, Chinese officials intensified their pressure against Protestant house churches during 2004, and detained numerous leaders and congregants, including Liu Fengang, Xu Yonghai, and Zhang Shengqi, who were sentenced in August 2004 to 1- to 3-year terms for sending reports of Government persecution of house churches to overseas organizations;

Whereas, according to the Department of State, during 2004 Chinese authorities in the Tibet Autonomous Region committed serious human rights abuses, including extrajudicial killing, torture, arbitrary arrest, lengthy detention for peaceful expression of political or religious views, and repression of religious freedom;

Whereas the whereabouts of Gendun Choekyi Nyima, the boy identified by the Dalai Lama as the 11th Panchen Lama and detained by Chinese authorities ten years ago, when he was 6 years old, are still unknown;

Whereas the Chinese Government has used the international war on terror as a pretext for a harsh crackdown on Uighurs in Xinjiang, including those expressing peaceful political dissent and independent Muslim religious leaders;

Whereas, according to the Department of State, Chinese authorities continue to restrict Muslim religious activity, teaching, and worship in Xinjiang, including reported prohibitions on the participation and religious education of minors;

Whereas the Chinese Government continued its brutal campaign to eradicate the Falun Gong spiritual movement

and, according to the Department of State, tens of thousands of practitioners remain incarcerated in prisons, extrajudicial reeducation-through-labor camps, and psychiatric facilities;

Whereas since the 1999 beginning of the crackdown on Falun Gong, hundreds of Falun Gong practitioners have been tortured and beaten to death by Chinese authorities, with some death estimates reaching as high as 2,000;

Whereas the Government of China continues to impose a coercive birth limitation policy that relies on the threat of job loss and punitive fines, and which has included the use of forced abortion and forced sterilization;

Whereas this coercive birth limitation policy has led to sex-selective abortion, the abandonment and infanticide of baby girls, and a disproportionate number of male children in China, which has already led to the reported abduction and trafficking of women as “brides” in some areas, and which will have serious and detrimental sociological impacts on China for years to come;

Whereas trafficking in persons remains a serious problem within China, and reports persist of complicity by local officials in trafficking, alien smuggling, and prostitution involving trafficked women;

Whereas Chinese authorities have been responsible for extrajudicial killings, the torture and mistreatment of prisoners leading to numerous deaths in custody, arbitrary arrest and detention, and the routine violation of legal protections and due process for defendants, including in death penalty cases;

Whereas organs taken from executed prisoners without meaningful consent are the main source of organs used in

transplants in China, for both foreign and Chinese patients;

Whereas Chinese authorities hold an estimated 300,000 persons in “reeducation-through-labor” camps and other forms of detention not subject to judicial review;

Whereas contrary to its obligations as a party to the 1951 United Nations Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, the Chinese Government continues to deny the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) access to North Koreans inside China, and during the past year deported several thousand back to North Korea, where many of them were subjected to persecution and some were executed upon their return, as provided in North Korean law;

Whereas the Chinese Government has arrested and detained foreign journalists, missionaries, and activists for providing food, shelter, transportation, and other assistance to North Koreans who have fled into China;

Whereas during 2004 the Chinese Government increased its pervasive monitoring of the Internet, restricted the information available to Chinese users, and detained and imprisoned numerous individuals responsible for disseminating political, religious, and social views on the Internet that officials deemed objectionable;

Whereas 16 years after the 1989 pro-democracy demonstrations in Tiananmen Square, many protesters remain in prison and no independent investigations have taken place regarding the massacre that occurred during those demonstrations;

Whereas the Chinese Government continues to criminalize all independent trade union activity and detained a number

of labor activists during 2004, including Chen Kehai, Zhao Yong, and Zhu Guo;

Whereas the United States has not yet sought to schedule a new round of its bilateral human rights dialogue with China due to a lack of sufficient concrete results from the last round in December 2002;

Whereas in March 2004 the Chinese Government announced the suspension of bilateral human rights dialogue with the United States because of the decision by the United States to table a resolution on China at the 60th Session of the United Nations Human Rights Commission in Geneva;

Whereas the People's Republic of China has signed the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, but has yet to take the necessary steps to make the treaty legally binding;

Whereas the Government of the People's Republic of China is a party to the 1951 United Nations Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol;

Whereas the Government of the People's Republic of China is a party to the United Nations Convention Against Torture and Other Forms of Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment or Punishment; and

Whereas the Constitution and laws of the People's Republic of China purport to provide for fundamental human rights, however, the protections of these rights are often ignored in practice: Now, therefore, be it

- 1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
- 2 *concurring), That—*
- 3 (1) it is the sense of Congress that—

1 (A) the United States Government should
2 continue to insist that the People's Republic of
3 China respect the fundamental human rights of
4 its citizens;

5 (B) as a forum dedicated solely to human
6 rights concerns, the United Nations Human
7 Rights Commission in Geneva, Switzerland, is
8 an appropriate venue for the United States and
9 other countries to raise the situation of human
10 rights inside China, without regard to ancillary
11 strategic considerations;

12 (C) the failure of the United Nations
13 Human Rights Commission to formally recog-
14 nize human rights violations as extensive as
15 those occurring in China reflects poorly on the
16 ability of the Commission to fulfill its core pur-
17 poses;

18 (D) at the 61st Session of the United Na-
19 tions Human Rights Commission in Geneva,
20 Switzerland, the appropriate representative of
21 the United States should introduce a resolution
22 detailing the human rights situation within the
23 People's Republic of China and urging the Gov-
24 ernment of China to abide by internationally
25 recognized human rights standards;

1 (E) the United States Government should
2 take the lead in organizing multilateral support
3 to obtain passage by the Commission of such a
4 resolution and should draft the resolution in
5 such a way as to highlight specific human
6 rights abuses;

7 (F) all countries with representatives at
8 the 61st Session of the United Nations Human
9 Rights Commission should support passage of
10 such a resolution and resist efforts by rep-
11 resentatives of the People's Republic of China
12 to oppose the consideration or passage of such
13 a resolution; and

14 (G) United States Government officials
15 and officials from other governments should
16 continue to speak out in international fora and
17 elsewhere against the Chinese Government's
18 suppression of religious and political freedoms,
19 its persecution of Tibetans, Falun Gong practi-
20 tioners, Catholics, Protestants, and Uighur
21 Muslims, its unjust arrest and detention of reli-
22 gious leaders and political dissidents, its harsh
23 prison conditions, its coercive family planning
24 policies, and its forced return of North Korean
25 refugees; and

1 (2) Congress urges the Government of the Peo-
2 ple's Republic of China—

3 (A) to take the necessary measures to stop
4 the persecution of all religious practitioners and
5 to safeguard fundamental human rights;

6 (B) to stop the forced return of North Ko-
7 rean refugees, to allow the United Nations
8 High Commissioner for Refugees access to
9 North Koreans inside China, and to work with
10 the United Nations High Commissioner for
11 Refugees to develop a viable solution to the hu-
12 manitarian crisis involving North Korean refu-
13 gees;

14 (C) to end its coercive one-child per family
15 policy and ensure that no national, provincial,
16 or local government officials subject women to
17 forced abortions or sterilizations;

18 (D) to immediately hold an open and
19 transparent investigation into the 1989 crack-
20 down on pro-democracy demonstrators in
21 Tiananmen Square, to release all the prisoners
22 held in connection with that event, and to pay
23 compensation to the families who lost their
24 loved ones;

1 (E) to release from detention all prisoners
 2 of conscience, persons held because of their reli-
 3 gious activities, and persons of humanitarian
 4 concern;

5 (F) to release the 11th Panchen Lama
 6 identified by Dalai Lama and allow him to un-
 7 dertake his rightful role;

8 (G) to allow the Chinese people to freely
 9 and openly practice their religious beliefs and
 10 organize their religious communities according
 11 to the dictates of conscience, free from govern-
 12 ment coercion;

13 (H) to adhere to the provisions and guide-
 14 lines of the International Covenant on Civil and
 15 Political Rights, the United Nations Convention
 16 Against Torture and Other Forms of Cruel, In-
 17 human, or Degrading Treatment or Punish-
 18 ment, and the 1951 Convention Relating to the
 19 Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol; and

20 (I) to allow, immediately and without re-
 21 strictions, visits to China by the United States
 22 Commission on International Religious Free-
 23 dom, the United Nations Special Rapporteurs

- 1 on Religious Intolerance and Torture, and the
- 2 International Committee of the Red Cross.



109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 99

Expressing the condolences of the House of Representatives to the families of the victims of the terrorist attacks in Madrid that occurred one year ago, on March 11, 2004, and expressing deepest sympathy to the individuals injured in those attacks and to the people of the Kingdom of Spain.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 15, 2005

Mr. McCOTTER (for himself and Ms. BERKLEY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

RESOLUTION

Expressing the condolences of the House of Representatives to the families of the victims of the terrorist attacks in Madrid that occurred one year ago, on March 11, 2004, and expressing deepest sympathy to the individuals injured in those attacks and to the people of the Kingdom of Spain.

Whereas on March 11, 2004, 10 coordinated bomb explosions at the Atocha, Santa Eugenia, and El Pozo del Tío Raimundo stations and aboard a commuter train occurred during the morning rush hour in Madrid;

Whereas 191 individuals were killed and more than 1,800 individuals were wounded in these horrific terrorist attacks;

Whereas these terrorist bombing attacks were the deadliest in Europe since the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 in 1988;

Whereas these attacks constitute the worst acts of terrorism ever experienced in Spanish history;

Whereas Spain's investigation into the Basque Fatherland and Liberty terrorist organization, also known as Euzkadi Ta Askatasuna (ETA), has made progress in the Global War on Terrorism;

Whereas the leaders of Spain have worked vigorously to identify and capture terrorists who attempt to find sanctuary in Spain;

Whereas the atrocious acts of violence committed on March 11, 2004, in Madrid show yet again that terrorism knows no borders;

Whereas the United States and Spain are committed to continuing to strengthen the relationship between the United States and Europe;

Whereas Spain is an advocate for the ideals of freedom and democracy; and

Whereas the people of the United States stand together with the people of Spain to remember those individuals who lost their lives on the one year anniversary of these horrific terrorist attacks: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) expresses its condolences to the families of
3 the individuals killed in the terrorist bombing at-
4 tacks in Madrid that occurred on March 11, 2004,
5 and expresses its deepest sympathy to the individ-

1 uals injured in such attacks and to the people of the
2 Kingdom of Spain on the one year anniversary of
3 the attacks;

4 (2) condemns the terrorist attacks that oc-
5 curred on March 11, 2004, and all acts of terror
6 worldwide; and

7 (3) expresses its solidarity with Spain and all
8 other countries that have been attacked during the
9 Global War on Terrorism.

○

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 101

Urging the European Union to add Hezbollah to the European Union's wide-ranging list of terrorist organizations.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 15, 2005

Mr. SAXTON (for himself, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. CANTOR, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. ACKERMAN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

RESOLUTION

Urging the European Union to add Hezbollah to the European Union's wide-ranging list of terrorist organizations.

Whereas Hezbollah is a Lebanon-based radical organization with terrorist cells based in Europe, Africa, North America, South America, Asia, and elsewhere, receiving financial, training, weapons, and political and organizational aid from Iran and Syria;

Whereas Hezbollah has led a 23-year global campaign of terror targeting American, German, French, British, Italian, Israeli, Kuwaiti, Saudi Arabian, Argentinean, Thai, Singaporean, and Russian civilians, among others;

Whereas former Director of Central Intelligence George Tenet called Hezbollah "an organization with the capa-

bility and worldwide presence [equal to] al Qaeda, equal if not far more [of a] capable organization . . . [t]hey're a notch above in many respects . . . which puts them in a state sponsored category with a potential for lethality that's quite great";

Whereas Hezbollah has been suspected of numerous terrorist acts against Americans, including the suicide truck bombing of the United States Embassy and Marine Barracks in Beirut in October 1983 and the Embassy annex in Beirut in September 1984;

Whereas the French unit of the Multinational Force in Beirut was also targeted in the October 1983 attack, in which 241 United States soldiers and 58 French paratroopers were killed;

Whereas Hezbollah has attacked Israeli and Jewish targets in South America in the mid-1990s, including the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in March 1992 and the AMLA Jewish Cultural Center in Buenos Aires in July 1994;

Whereas Hezbollah has claimed responsibility for kidnappings of United States and Israeli civilians and French, British, German, and Russian diplomats, among others;

Whereas even after the adherence of Israel to United Nations Security Council Resolution 425 (1978) by withdrawing from Lebanon, Hezbollah has continued to carry out attacks against Israel and its citizens;

Whereas Hezbollah has expanded its operations in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, providing training, financing and weapons to Palestinian terrorist organizations on the European Union terrorist list, including the Al Aqsa Mar-

tyrs Brigade, Hamas, the Palestinian Islamic Jihad, and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine;

Whereas in 2004 Hezbollah instigated, financed, or played a role in implementing nearly 80 percent of Palestinian terrorist attacks against Israeli targets, resulting in over 20 percent of Israeli casualties in terrorist attacks for that year;

Whereas the European Union agreed by consensus to classify Hamas, another Palestinian terrorist organization, as a terrorist organization for purposes of prohibiting funding from the European Union to Hamas;

Whereas the Syria Accountability and Lebanese Sovereignty Restoration Act of 2003 (Public Law 108–175) urges the Government of Lebanon to assert the sovereignty of the Lebanese state over all of its territory and to evict all terrorist and foreign forces from southern Lebanon, including Hezbollah and the Iranian Revolutionary Guards;

Whereas, although the European Union has included Imad Fayiz Mughniyah, a key operations and intelligence officer of Hezbollah, on its terrorist list, it has not included his organization on the list;

Whereas the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, and Australia have all classified Hezbollah as a terrorist organization and the United Kingdom has placed the Hezbollah External Security Organization on its terrorist list;

Whereas leaders of Hezbollah have made statements denouncing any distinction between its “political and military” operations, such as Hezbollah’s representative in the Lebanese Parliament, Mohammad Raad, who stated in 2001 that “Hezbollah is a military resistance party, and it is

our task to fight the occupation of our land. . . . There is no separation between politics and resistance.”;

Whereas in a book recently published by the deputy secretary-general of Hezbollah, Sheikh Naim Qassem, entitled “Hezbollah -- the Approach, the Experience, the Future”, Qassem writes “Hezbollah is a jihad organization whose aim, first and foremost, is jihad against the Zionist enemy, while the political, pure and sensible effort can serve as a prop and a means of support for jihad”;

Whereas United Nations Security Council resolution 1559 (2004), jointly sponsored by the United States and France, calls upon all remaining foreign forces to withdraw from Lebanon and for the disbanding and disarmament of all Lebanese and non-Lebanese militias, among other things;

Whereas in December 2004 the Department of State placed Al-Manar, Hezbollah’s satellite television network, on the Terrorist Exclusion List, and in December 2004 the French Council of State banned the broadcasting of Al-Manar in France

Whereas France, Germany, and Great Britain, with the support of the High Representative of the European Union, have created a working group with Iran to discuss regional security concerns, including the influence of terror stemming from Hezbollah and other extremist organizations; and

Whereas cooperation between the United States and the European Union regarding combating international terrorism is essential to the promotion of global security and peace: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

1 (1) urges the European Union to classify
2 Hezbollah as a terrorist organization for purposes of
3 prohibiting funding from the European Union to
4 Hezbollah and recognizing it as a threat to inter-
5 national security;

6 (2) condemns the continuous terrorist attacks
7 perpetrated by Hezbollah; and

8 (3) condemns Hezbollah's continuous support of
9 Palestinian terrorist organizations on the European
10 Union terrorist list, such as the Al Aqsa Martyrs
11 Brigade, Hamas, the Palestinian Islamic Jihad, and
12 the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

○

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 108

Commemorating the life of the late Zurab Zhvania, Prime Minister of the
Republic of Georgia.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 16, 2005

Mr. GALLEGLY (for himself, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, and Mr. WEXLER)
submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee
on International Relations

RESOLUTION

Commemorating the life of the late Zurab Zhvania, Prime
Minister of the Republic of Georgia.

Whereas on the night of February 3, 2005, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Georgia, Zurab Zhvania, died, apparently due to carbon monoxide poisoning caused by a malfunctioning heater;

Whereas the death of Prime Minister Zhvania at the age of 41 is a tragic loss for the Republic of Georgia;

Whereas Zurab Zhvania was a dedicated reformer whose visionary leadership inspired a new generation of political leaders in the Republic of Georgia;

Whereas Zurab Zhvania founded the Citizen's Union Party, which won elections in 1995, making him the Speaker of the Georgian Parliament;

Whereas under the leadership of Speaker Zhvania, the Georgian Parliament was transformed into an effective and transparent legislative institution;

Whereas in November 2001, Speaker Zhvania resigned his position in protest when government authorities attempted to suppress the leading independent television station in the Republic of Georgia;

Whereas Zurab Zhvania formed the United Democrats, a party that blossomed into one of the major forces that brought about the Rose Revolution in the Republic of Georgia in November 2003;

Whereas in the most dangerous hours of the Rose Revolution, when it appeared that armed force could be used against the peaceful protestors, Zurab Zhvania dismissed his bodyguards and led a march to Parliament accompanied only by his young children;

Whereas Zurab Zhvania was named Prime Minister of the Republic of Georgia in November 2003, and led governmental efforts to develop and implement far-reaching economic, judicial, military, and social reforms thereby turning the promise of the Rose Revolution into real results that have dramatically improved life in the Republic of Georgia;

Whereas the strong commitment of Zurab Zhvania to the peaceful restoration of the territorial integrity of the Republic of Georgia was most recently displayed in the central role he played in the development of the unprecedented and generous proposal of the Republic of Georgia for resolving the status of South Ossetia peacefully and justly; and

Whereas Zurab Zhvania's vision of the historical destiny of the Republic of Georgia was eloquently expressed before the Council of Europe on April 27, 1999, when he said, "I am Georgian and therefore, I am European": Now, therefore, be it.

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) expresses its sympathy and deepest con-
3 lences to the family of Zurab Zhvania for their trag-
4 ic loss of a son, husband, and father, and to the peo-
5 ple of the Republic of Georgia for the death of their
6 Prime Minister;

7 (2) commends the courage, energy, political
8 imagination, and leadership of Zurab Zhvania that
9 were so critical to the development of a democratic
10 Republic of Georgia;

11 (3) recognizes that the integration of the Re-
12 public of Georgia into Euro-Atlantic institutions will
13 be the completion of the vision of Zurab Zhvania
14 and his most lasting legacy; and

15 (4) expresses its solidarity with the people and
16 Government of the Republic of Georgia at this dif-
17 ficult time.

○

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 120

Commending the outstanding efforts by members of the Armed Forces and civilian employees of the Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development in response to the earthquake and tsunami of December 26, 2004.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 17, 2005

Mr. BLUMENAUER (for himself and Mr. LEACH) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

RESOLUTION

Commending the outstanding efforts by members of the Armed Forces and civilian employees of the Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development in response to the earthquake and tsunami of December 26, 2004.

Whereas on December 26, 2004, an earthquake and tsunami struck the Indian Ocean basin, killing over 250,000 people in Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India, Thailand, Somalia, Burma, Maldives, Malaysia, Tanzania, Bangladesh, and Kenya;

Whereas the response by members of the Armed Forces and civilian employees of the Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) was immediate, invaluable, and courageous;

Whereas civilian employees of the Department of State and USAID showed great leadership in helping to coordinate relief efforts among donors, United Nations agencies, international organizations, aid agencies, and host governments;

Whereas civilian employees of the Department of State and USAID who were on vacation in some of the hardest hit areas used their expertise and specialized skills to provide immediate assistance to victims and survivors of the tsunami;

Whereas civilian employees of the Department of State and USAID set up remote assistance operations in the affected areas in order to best provide service to United States citizens and citizens of other countries who were affected by the tsunami;

Whereas United States consular officers worked around the clock to locate and identify United States citizens affected by the tsunami, reconnect them with their loved ones, and facilitate their return to the United States, despite the loss of their passports, other identification, and belongings as a result of the tsunami;

Whereas members of the Armed Forces volunteered their unique resources to assess the situation and deliver aid when and where other relief efforts could not;

Whereas the sight of members of the Armed Forces providing aid to tsunami victims and survivors has provided an important boost to the image abroad of the United States;

Whereas members of the Armed Forces and civilian employees of USAID worked together to bring clean water from Navy ships to victims and survivors in need; and

Whereas the coordinated effort by members of the Armed Forces and civilian employees of the Department of State and USAID saved lives, made a crucial contribution to recovery, and set the stage for a long-term United States commitment to increased peace and security across South and Southeast Asia: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) commends the outstanding efforts in re-
3 sponse to the earthquake and tsunami of December
4 26, 2004, by members of the Armed Forces and ci-
5 vilian employees of the Department of State and the
6 United States Agency for International Develop-
7 ment;

8 (2) recognizes that the actions of these individ-
9 uals went above and beyond the call of duty; and

10 (3) thanks them for their service.

○

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 135

Providing for the establishment of a commission in the House of Representatives to assist parliaments in emerging democracies.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 3, 2005

Mr. DREIER (for himself, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. HYDE, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. KIRK, Mr. BILIRAKIS, and Mr. GILLMOR) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

RESOLUTION

Providing for the establishment of a commission in the House of Representatives to assist parliaments in emerging democracies.

1 *Resolved,*

2 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

3 This resolution may be cited as the “House Democracy Assistance Commission Resolution”.

5 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

6 The House of Representatives makes the following
7 findings:

1 (1) Since its founding, the United States has
2 championed the expansion of democracy around the
3 world.

4 (2) Indeed, beginning with the Continental Con-
5 gress and continuing through the modern Congress,
6 representative institutions have served as a critical
7 component through which the American people have
8 expressed their views on policy issues and through
9 which the power of other government branches has
10 been balanced.

11 (3) In his second inaugural address on January
12 20, 2005, President George W. Bush declared: “We
13 are led by events and common sense to one conclu-
14 sion: The survival of liberty in our land increasingly
15 depends on the success of liberty in other lands. The
16 best hope for peace in our world is the expansion of
17 freedom in all the world. . . . So it is the policy of
18 the United States to seek and support the growth of
19 democratic movements and institutions in every na-
20 tion and culture, with the ultimate goal of ending
21 tyranny in our world.”.

22 (4) Strong institutions, particularly national
23 legislatures with proper infrastructure, are essential
24 for democracies to mature and to withstand cyclical
25 turnover in governments.

1 (5) Furthermore, the parliaments of emerging
2 democracies are commonly comprised of new legisla-
3 tors, citizens from many walks of life, who face the
4 challenges of creating new democratic systems with-
5 out the benefit of previous legislative experience. The
6 legislatures of these fledgling democracies often lack
7 training, equipment, or resources to carry out their
8 work effectively.

9 (6) Many parliaments do not possess the nec-
10 essary technology, such as modern computer equip-
11 ment, software, or access to databases and electronic
12 resources, to facilitate the timely flow of legislative
13 information to lawmakers and legislative staff.

14 (7) Parliaments in fledgling democracies also
15 frequently lack trained staff to provide nonpartisan
16 policy information, to draft legislation, and to advise
17 legislators on policy matters.

18 (8) Newly democratic parliaments may lack the
19 resources to establish internal libraries, reference
20 materials, and archiving capabilities for use by legis-
21 lators and staff.

22 (9) From 1990 through 1996, the United
23 States House of Representatives, in conjunction with
24 the House Information Systems Office (later known
25 as House Information Resources) and the Congres-

1 sional Research Service (CRS) of the Library of
2 Congress, provided equipment and technical assist-
3 ance to newly democratic parliaments in Central and
4 Eastern European countries, including Albania, Bul-
5 garia, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Lat-
6 via, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Russia, Slovakia,
7 and Ukraine, in an effort to develop and strengthen
8 those institutions.

9 (10) This program, commonly known as the
10 “Frost-Solomon Task Force”, not only served the
11 United States foreign policy goal of helping to estab-
12 lish democratic institutions in other countries, but
13 also developed significant goodwill in the countries in
14 which it was implemented. The program was de-
15 signed to improve the efficiency of parliaments and
16 the professionalism of their members and staff, as
17 well as to increase transparency and accountability.

18 (11) A program similar to the Frost-Solomon
19 Task Force would enable Members, officers, and
20 staff of the House of Representatives to share their
21 expertise and experience with their counterparts in
22 other countries, in keeping with the declared policy
23 of the United States to support the growth of demo-
24 cratic institutions, thereby undertaking what Presi-

1 dent Bush called “the idealistic work of helping raise
2 up free governments”.

3 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMISSION.**

4 There is established in the House of Representatives
5 a commission to be known as the House Democracy As-
6 sistance Commission (hereafter in this resolution referred
7 to as the “Commission”).

8 **SEC. 4. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMISSION.**

9 (a) NUMBER AND APPOINTMENT.—The Commission
10 shall be composed of Members of the House of Represent-
11 atives, the number of whom shall be determined by the
12 Speaker of the House of Representatives, in consultation
13 with the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives.
14 Majority party members shall be appointed by the Speaker
15 of the House of Representatives and minority party mem-
16 bers shall be appointed by the Minority Leader of the
17 House of Representatives.

18 (b) TERMS OF MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REP-
19 RESENTATIVES.—Each member of the Commission shall
20 be appointed for a term that is concurrent with the Con-
21 gress in which the appointment is made. Such a member
22 may be reappointed for one or more subsequent terms in
23 accordance with the preceding sentence.

24 (c) CHAIRPERSON.—The Chairperson of the Commis-
25 sion shall be designated by the Speaker of the House of

1 Representatives from among the members appointed by
2 the Speaker of the House of Representatives under sub-
3 section (a).

4 **SEC. 5. DUTIES OF COMMISSION.**

5 (a) ACTIVITIES.—The Commission shall work with
6 the parliaments of selected countries, as determined pur-
7 suant to subsection (b)(4), on a frequent and regular basis
8 in order to—

9 (1) enable Members, officers, and staff of the
10 House of Representatives and congressional support
11 agencies to provide expert advice to members and
12 staff of the parliaments of selected countries;

13 (2) enable members and staff of parliaments of
14 selected countries to visit the House of Representa-
15 tives and its support agencies to learn about their
16 operations first-hand; and

17 (3) provide recommendations to the Adminis-
18 trator of the United States Agency for International
19 Development regarding the provision of material as-
20 sistance, such as modern automation and office sys-
21 tems, information technology, and library supplies,
22 that the Commission determines is needed by the
23 parliament of a selected country in order to improve
24 the efficiency and transparency of its work, and to
25 oversee the provision of such assistance.

1 (b) STUDY.—

2 (1) IN GENERAL.—In order to carry out the ac-
3 tivities described in subsection (a), the Commission
4 shall conduct on an annual basis (or more frequently
5 if necessary) a study on the feasibility of programs
6 of assistance for parliaments of countries described
7 in paragraph (2) for the purpose of strengthening
8 the parliamentary infrastructure of such countries.
9 The Commission shall designate those countries de-
10 scribed in paragraph (2) with respect to which a
11 study will be conducted under this subsection. The
12 study shall assess—

13 (A) the independent and substantive role
14 that each parliament plays, or could reasonably
15 be expected to play, in the legislative process
16 and government oversight;

17 (B) the potential benefit to each par-
18 liament of expert advice from Members and
19 staff of the House of Representatives in areas
20 such as the development of research services
21 and legislative information systems, parliamen-
22 tary procedure, committee operations, budget
23 process, government oversight, and constituent
24 services; and

1 (C) the need in each parliament for mate-
2 rial assistance, such as modern automation and
3 office systems, information technology, and re-
4 search materials, in order to improve efficiency
5 and transparency.

6 (2) COUNTRIES DESCRIBED.—The countries re-
7 ferred to in paragraph (1) are countries that have
8 established or are developing democratic parliaments
9 which would benefit from assistance described in this
10 resolution.

11 (3) SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTA-
12 TIVES.—It is the sense of the House of Representa-
13 tives that the countries described in paragraph (2)
14 with respect to which studies will be conducted
15 under this subsection should reflect a geographic di-
16 versity and over time should include countries from
17 each of the following regions: Africa, Asia and the
18 Pacific, Europe, the Middle East and Central Asia,
19 and the Western Hemisphere.

20 (4) SELECTED COUNTRIES.—From the coun-
21 tries studied, the Commission shall select one or
22 more parliaments that it recommends should receive
23 assistance under the provisions of this resolution,
24 based on the criteria in paragraph (1). Assistance
25 may be provided under the provisions of this resolu-

tion to a parliament selected under this paragraph only if the parliament first expresses to the Speaker of the House of Representatives an interest to receive such assistance.

(c) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than September 30, 2005, and each September 30 thereafter until September 30, 2009, the Commission shall prepare and submit to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, the Committee on International Relations and other appropriate House committees, the Office of Interparliamentary Affairs of the House of Representatives, and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, an annual report on the following:

(A) RESULTS OF STUDY.—The results of the study conducted pursuant to subsection (b).

(B) COMMISSION ACTIVITIES.—In accordance with the results of such study, a review of the activities of the Commission in the previous year and a proposal for the activities of the Commission in the following year, as described in subsection (a).

1 (2) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term
2 “other appropriate House committees” means the
3 Committee on Appropriations, the Committee on
4 House Administration, and the Committee on Rules
5 of the House of Representatives.

6 **SEC. 6. ROLE OF THE COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RE-**
7 **LATIONS.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall carry out
9 the duties described in section 5 using the staff and re-
10 sources of the Committee on International Relations, in-
11 cluding the use of consultants, such as individuals with
12 expertise in development of democratic parliaments, legis-
13 lative systems management, legislative research, par-
14 liamentary procedure, related legislative matters, and
15 technology systems management, as appropriate.

16 (b) PARTICIPATION OF LEGISLATIVE BRANCH EM-
17 PLOYEES.—At the request of the Commission, the head
18 of any House office or congressional support agency may
19 assist the work of the Commission by—

20 (1) detailing personnel of that office to the staff
21 of the Committee on International Relations; or

22 (2) authorizing personnel of that office to par-
23 ticipate in activities of the Commission.

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11

1 **SEC. 7. TERMINATION.**

2 The Commission shall terminate on September 30,
3 2009.

○

Chairman HYDE. All Members are given leave to insert remarks on the measures into the record, should they choose to do so. If Members wish to give statements, I will recognize them after the unanimous consent agreement is adopted.

Without objection, the Chairman is authorized to seek consideration of all of the measures on today's agenda under suspension of the rules, and the amendments which the Members have before them will be deemed as adopted.

[The amendments referred to follow:]

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H. CON. RES. 18
OFFERED BY MS. ROS-LEHTINEN**

Strike the preamble and insert the following:

Whereas the Syrian Arab Republic is governed by an authoritarian regime which continues to commit serious human rights abuses, including the use of torture and arbitrary arrest and detention;

Whereas the Department of State's Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2004 states that Syria's "human rights record remained poor, and the Government continued to commit numerous, serious abuses", the government "significantly restricts freedom of speech and of the press", "freedom of assembly does not exist under the law", and "the Government restricted freedom of association";

Whereas Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that "Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression. This right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.";

Whereas Article 20 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that "Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association.";

Whereas Syria's September 2001 press law permits the government to arbitrarily deny or revoke publishing licenses for vague reasons and compels media to submit all material to government censors;

Whereas Syrian authorities have arrested, or, in the case of foreigners, expelled journalists for writing critically about Syria's policies;

Whereas Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International have reported that the security forces of Syria are targeting emerging Syrian human rights organizations, as well as their attorneys, in an apparent attempt to intimidate those organizations;

Whereas, on March 8, 2004, Syrian security forces arrested more than 30 human rights dissidents and civilians at a sit-in in front of the parliament;

Whereas a United States diplomat who was watching the peaceful demonstrations was also arrested and held for an hour in what the United States called an unacceptable violation of diplomatic practice and which the United States protested "in the strongest terms";

Whereas Article 7 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that "All are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law.";

Whereas the criminal law of Syria provides for reduced sentences in cases of "honor" killings, and spousal rape is not illegal;

Whereas the infringement by Syria on human rights and civil liberties extends into the Lebanese Republic, which it continues to occupy in violation of United Nations Security Council resolutions;

Whereas hundreds of Lebanese civilians are believed to have been killed or "disappeared" by Syrian occupation forces or its secret police;

Whereas hundreds of Kurdish civilians were injured or killed in clashes with the Syrian authorities in March 2004 in Qamishli, a city in northeastern Syria, and Syrian security forces arrested and tortured Syrian Kurdish civilians from the town of Al-Malikiyah on January 9, 2005;

Whereas Syrian authorities continue their harassment of Aktham Naisse, Syria's leading human rights activist, President, and founding member of the Committees for the Defense of Democratic Liberties and Human Rights in Syria, and the 2005 winner of the Martin Ennals Award for Human Rights Defenders, one of the most prestigious awards in the global human rights community, by charging him with spreading false information, forming an underground association with links to international human rights groups, and opposing the Baath Party;

Whereas, in November 2004, upon his release from prison, Kamal Labwani, a 48-year-old physician in Syria, stated that there are at least 400 political prisoners in Syria, 100 of whom have been jailed for at least 20 years;

Whereas Mr. Labwani urged "all defenders of freedom and human rights, whether individuals, associations, or bodies, or international, Arab, or local organizations to participate with us in this campaign to call for the immediate release of all political prisoners and detainees of opinion and conscience";

Whereas, in November 2004, Syrian journalist Louai Hussein was banned from writing by the Syrian Interior Ministry's political security office;

Whereas, in November 2004, the arrest in Germany of a Syrian embassy official for espionage and issuing threats

against the Syrian opposition in Europe is evidence of a campaign reportedly launched by Syrian dictator Bashar Assad, aimed at intimidating the regime's opposition abroad;

Whereas thousands of Syrian citizens, along with their families, children, and grandchildren, live outside their country in forced exile, solely because of their political views, or because of the views of members of their families; and

Whereas human rights and democracy groups in Syria have sponsored a petition urging greater freedoms and the release of all political prisoners: Now, therefore, be it

Strike the resolved clause and insert the following:

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring)*, That Congress—

3 (1) condemns the consistent pattern of gross
4 violations of internationally recognized human rights
5 by the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic;

6 (2) calls on the international community to
7 adopt a resolution at the upcoming session of the
8 United Nations Commission on Human Rights
9 which details the dismal human rights record of
10 Syria;

11 (3) expresses its support for the people of Syria
12 in their daily struggle for freedom, respect for
13 human rights and civil liberties, democratic self-gov-
14 ernance, and the establishment of the rule of law;

1 (4) encourages the President and the Secretary
2 of State to reach out to dissidents, human rights ac-
3 tivists, and the nonviolent democratic opposition in
4 Syria, and to assist them in their efforts; and

5 (5) urges the adoption and pursuit of these and
6 other policies to seek a democratic government in
7 Syria that will—

8 (A) bring freedom and democracy to the
9 people of Syria;

10 (B) cease the illegal occupation by Syria of
11 the Lebanese Republic;

12 (C) abandon support for terrorism;

13 (D) not pursue research, development, ac-
14 quisition, production, transfer, or deployment of
15 biological, chemical, or nuclear weapons, will
16 provide credible assurances that such behavior
17 will not be undertaken in the future, and will
18 agree to allow United Nations and other inter-
19 national observers to verify such assurances;
20 and

21 (E) live in peace and security with the
22 international community.

Amend the title so as to read: “A Concurrent Reso-
lution Expressing the grave concern of Congress regard-
ing the continuing gross violations of human rights and

civil liberties of the Syrian and Lebanese people by the Government of Syrian Arab Republic.”.

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H. CON. RES. 32
OFFERED BY MS. ROS-LEHTINEN**

Strike the preamble and insert the following:

Whereas since its invasion of the Lebanese Republic in 1976, the regime of the Syrian Arab Republic has implemented a systematic policy of occupation over Lebanon that has transformed the political, social, and economic character of Lebanon;

Whereas on July 20, 1976, President Hafez al-Assad of Syria stated that “Syria and Lebanon were one state and one people”;

Whereas, on October 13, 1990, the Syrian occupation of Lebanon was complete, when Syrian troops launched aerial and ground attacks and occupied the Lebanese presidential palace and the Ministry of Defense, ousting the constitutional government of Prime Minister Michel Aoun of Lebanon;

Whereas the Syrian regime appointed their own proxy government and president in occupied Lebanon, and started a large-scale persecution operation against the Lebanese people by arresting, abducting, torturing, and killing opponents of the occupation;

Whereas, on May 22, 1991, following the occupation of Beirut, Lebanon, Syria concluded the Brotherhood Treaty for Coordination and Cooperation with Lebanon;

Whereas this treaty solidified the integration of the two countries in matters of security and intelligence, finance and trade, and industry and agriculture, by establishing the

mechanism for Syrian command under the cover of “joint” decisionmaking;

Whereas the Syrian regime has continued to employ a wide range of policy means to transform Lebanon into a “client state” and a Syrian political satellite;

Whereas Syria clearly tampered with the Lebanese parliamentary elections of 1992, 1996, and 2000, by amending electoral laws which delineated voting districts and laid down intricate procedures for the elections, which were rigged in a way to guarantee results favorable to Syria;

Whereas Syrian-backed ad-hoc modifications to the Lebanese constitution extended by three years the presidential tenure of Lebanese president Elias Harawi, allowed Emile Lahoud, commander of the Lebanese army, to become president, and extended Lahoud’s term in contravention of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1559;

Whereas Lebanese judicial institutions have been utilized and mobilized to impose Syrian control, including the routine issuance of death sentences *in absentia* against expatriates and opposition leaders;

Whereas Lebanese Broadcasting Law No. 382 of 1994 provided the legislative framework for controlling and restricting Lebanese radio and television;

Whereas the restrictions on the free flow of information and opinion in Lebanon is in sharp contrast to the legacy of journalism in that country;

Whereas it is widely reported that Syria has utilized the practices of kidnapping and arresting Lebanese citizens, using torture against them, and causing their virtual disappearance;

Whereas Human Rights Watch reported that in November 1999 Syrian authorities in Damascus, Syria, offering no explanation whatsoever, returned to his family the dead body of Lebanese citizen Adel Khalaf Ajouri, aged 52, who had “disappeared” in 1990;

Whereas within Lebanon itself, Syria reportedly operated detention facilities in Tripoli, Beirut, Shtaura in the Bekka Valley, and Anjar on the Lebanese-Syrian border;

Whereas “Syrian order” in Lebanon was institutionalized when Damascus led the process of disarming the Lebanese militias, except for Hezbollah, which Syria retains as a terrorist proxy engaged against the State of Israel;

Whereas Lebanon, under the control of Syria, continues to serve as a major training center for terrorist organizations such as Hezbollah, Palestinian Islamic Jihad, Hamas, and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine–General Command;

Whereas a number of Lebanese government officials have actively facilitated and contributed to the Syrian occupation and its activities, thereby threatening regional and global security;

Whereas United Nations Security Council Resolution 1559 calls for the “strict respect of the sovereignty, territorial integrity, unity, and political independence of Lebanon under the sole and exclusive authority of the Government of Lebanon throughout Lebanon”, the withdrawal from Lebanon of “all remaining foreign forces”, “the disbanding and disarmament of all Lebanese and non-Lebanese militias”, and “the extension of the control of the Government of Lebanon over all Lebanese territory”;

Whereas, on February 14, 2005, a bomb exploded in Beirut, Lebanon, killing at least 15 people, including Rafik Hariri, former Prime Minister of Lebanon, and wounding approximately 100 other innocent victims;

Whereas after the bombing, President George W. Bush stated during an address in Brussels that “Our shared commitment to democratic progress is being tested in Lebanon, a once-thriving country that now suffers under the influence of an oppressive neighbor”, called on Syria to “end its occupation of Lebanon”, and reiterated the provisions of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1559;

Whereas Lebanese opposition leaders gathered after Hariri was killed and issued a statement demanding Syrian troop withdrawal from Lebanon within the next three months, calling for the resignation of the current Lebanese cabinet, and declaring that “we will fight the current regime and demand our right for a neutral government that makes sure Lebanon steps forward from being a captive state to regaining its full independence and sovereignty”; and

Whereas the ongoing mass demonstrations by the Lebanese people resulted in the dramatic resignation of the Lebanese Cabinet on February 28, 2005: Now, therefore, be it

Strike the resolved clause and insert the following:

- 1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
- 2 *concurring), That it is the sense of Congress that—*
- 3 (1) the Lebanese Republic is a captive country;

1 (2) the occupation of Lebanon represents a
2 long-term threat to the security of the Middle East
3 and United States efforts to promote political and
4 economic liberalization in the region, and this issue
5 should be raised by the President and the Secretary
6 of State in all appropriate bilateral and multilateral
7 forums;

8 (3) the President should direct the United
9 States Permanent Representative to the United Na-
10 tions to present and secure support for a United Na-
11 tions Security Council Resolution classifying Leb-
12 anon as a captive country and calling for the imme-
13 diate release of all Lebanese detainees in Syria and
14 Lebanon;

15 (4) the President should freeze all assets in the
16 United States belonging to Lebanese government of-
17 ficials who are found to support and aid the occupa-
18 tion of Lebanon by the Syrian Arab Republic;

19 (5) all countries should fully and immediately
20 implement United Nations Security Council Resolu-
21 tion 1559;

22 (6) it should be the policy of the United States
23 to—

24 (A) support independent human rights and
25 pro-democracy advocates in Lebanon; and

- 1 (B) seek the full restoration of sovereign
2 democratic rule in Lebanon; and
3 (7) the United States should provide assistance
4 through the Middle East Partnership Initiative and
5 the Broader Middle East and North Africa Initiative
6 for broadcasts and civil society efforts to assist indi-
7 viduals, organizations, and entities that support
8 Lebanese sovereignty and the promotion of democ-
9 racy in Lebanon.

Amend the title so as to read: “A Concurrent Resolution Expressing the grave concern of Congress regarding the occupation of the Lebanese Republic by the Syrian Arab Republic.”.

AMENDMENT TO H. CON. RES. 83
OFFERED BY MR. SMITH OF NEW JERSEY

In the 10th clause of the preamble, add at the end before the semicolon the following: “, and trials, torture, and executions of Uighurs have continued as part of this campaign”.

After the 10th clause of the preamble, insert the following new clauses:

Whereas Rebiya Kadeer, a Uighur businesswoman, continues to be imprisoned after her arrest in August 1999 despite serious health concerns after she was convicted for “supplying state secrets to foreigners” when she tried to attend a meeting with a United States delegation which included staff of the United States Congress and the United States Library of Congress;

Whereas after a one-year sentence reduction, Rebiya Kadeer is now expected to be released in August 2006;

Strike the 13th clause of the preamble (as redesignated) and insert in lieu thereof the following new clauses:

Whereas the Chinese Department of Cultural Affairs in Urumqi, Xinjiang, ordered the destruction of thousands of books on Uighur history and culture in 2002;

Whereas, according to the Department of State, Chinese authorities continue to restrict Muslim religious activity, teaching, and worship in Xinjiang, including reported prohibitions on the participation and religious education of minors;

After the 26th clause of the preamble (as redesignated), insert the following new clause:

Whereas following the death of former Party Secretary General Zhao Zhiyang in January 2005, there have been widespread calls in China for a re-evaluation of the events of 1989;

AMENDMENT TO H. RES. 99
OFFERED BY MR. MCCOTTER

Amend the 1st clause of the preamble to read as follows:

Whereas on March 11, 2004, terrorists affiliated with Al Qaeda coordinated 10 bomb explosions at the Atocha, Santa Eugenia, and El Pozo del Tio Raimundo stations and aboard a commuter train during the morning rush hour in Madrid;

After the 6th clause of the preamble, insert the following:

Whereas the Club de Madrid, an independent organization of democratic former heads of state and government dedicated to strengthening democracy around the world, is convening an international summit on democracy, terrorism, and security under the High Patronage of His Majesty the King of Spain to commemorate the one year anniversary of the terrorist attacks in Madrid;

AMENDMENT TO H. RES. 101
OFFERED BY MR. GALLEGLY OF CALIFORNIA

In the 8th clause of the preamble, strike “the adherence of Israel to” and insert “Israel’s compliance with”.

In the 10th clause of the preamble—

(1) strike “nearly 80 percent” and insert “a significant number”; and

(2) strike “resulting in” and all that follows through “for that year”.

In the 11th clause of the preamble, strike “, another Palestinian terrorist organization,”.

In the 14th clause of the preamble, strike “the United Kingdom,”.

In the 17th clause of the preamble, strike “among other things”.

In the 19th clause of the preamble, strike “stemming from” and insert “perpetuated by”.

In the 20th clause of the preamble, strike “combating” and insert “efforts to combat”.

Chairman HYDE. Does anybody seek recognition?

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Chairman?

Chairman HYDE. Mr. Lantos.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Chairman, I strongly support your recommendation.

Chairman HYDE. Anybody else?

[No response.]

Chairman HYDE. The Committee stands adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 10:27 a.m. the Committee was adjourned.]

